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SUMMARY

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GENERAL

1. Soviet officials foster "neutral belt" speculation:



Several Norwegian diplomatic missions have reported that Soviet officials, in discussing a European neutral belt, have expressed "personal" views that it was

reasonable to suppose that some neutralization would have to take place in the Satellites.

The source, a Norwegian Foreign Ministry official, took this to be a hint that the USSR might offer to neutralize Poland and Czechoslovakia in return for major Western concessions, presumably including similar status for a unified Germany.

He also thought such remarks might presage a campaign to persuade Denmark and Norway of the advantages of joining a neutral belt, and thought this might prove dangerously attractive to the Danish public but considerably less so in Norway.

Comment: Moscow is apparently attempting to exploit Western speculation on a neutral belt to encourage neutralist sentiment in specific countries. In Pravda on 22 May and in its 26 May note accepting the Western proposals for a summit meeting, the USSR sharply attacked suggestions that the status of the Satellites should be discussed.

Increasing speculation on a neutral belt would give impetus to neutralism in Denmark and Norway, but would not be sufficient to jeopardize their membership in NATO.

The Scandinavian countries have been skeptical of Soviet motives in Germany and would probably welcome a neutralization of Satellite countries as an indication of Soviet good intentions.

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2. Communist parties confused on interpretation of Soviet-Tito talks:

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"Complete disorientation" exists in the Italian Communist Party as a result of the Soviet approaches to Tito, [redacted]

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[redacted] The head of the party press and propaganda office is described as replying, in answer to numerous inquiries, that the events should be treated as straight news with absolutely no comment. Sicilian Communist leaders are described as reacting with "amazement and dismay."

The clandestine Greek Communist radio station, presumably in Bucharest, has presented only the facts of the developments and has avoided giving a line. Greek Communists reportedly are perturbed because they feel the move shows Soviet weakness. The Greek Communist Party over a period of time has purged leaders, including the civil war leader Markos Vafiades, for suspected Titoist tendencies.

Comment: Initial indecision is also suggested by the scant and straight reporting in the Communist press of other non-Orbit countries. The apparent lack of guidance, as well as the difficulty of handling the more specific ideological problem of "national communism" inherent in "Titoism," could account for the confusion and indecision among Communist parties. Except for the Trieste party, however, no other Communist party has been publicly critical of the Khrushchev approach to Tito.

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

5. Algerian disorders said to be directed by North African committee in Cairo:



A committee of extremist North African nationalist leaders in Cairo, charged with co-ordinating Algerian, Moroccan and Tunisian nationalist movements, is directing guerrilla activities in eastern Algeria, [redacted]

[redacted] Moroccan Istiqlal leader, Allal el-Fassi is said to be one of the chief strategists for over-all North African resistance. Algeria was given priority over Morocco as a center of resistance because the Cairo committee believed the element of surprise would be advantageous to the nationalists there.

Moroccan nationalists are recruiting among Moroccans who are members of quasi-military French units, some of which have recently been transferred to eastern Algeria.

External aid is mainly financial and has been supplied by Pakistan and Iraq. [redacted]

[redacted] about 20 young Moroccans are being trained at the Iraqi military academy.

Comment: In general this report is confirmed by other sources.

There has been no evidence of successful co-ordination of action among the movements, which appears to point up the difficulties of directing an informal and unwieldy organization from a detached headquarters. Recent reports from Algeria indicate, however, that the guerrillas there are improving their organization and tactics.

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